

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

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- 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:
    - c) machining differential case features subsequent to performing step b).
  - 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, further including the step of:
    - d) machining gear teeth on the ring gear subsequent to performing step c).
  - 9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including the step of:
    - e) induction hardening the gear teeth subsequent to performing step d).
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